

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of H.R. 3527,
the Poison Center Network Act of 2013
Full Committee
December 11, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that today we are marking up a bill to address a leading cause of unintentional injury and death: poisonings.

I have been a strong supporter of poison control centers over the years. I was a co-sponsor of the House legislation first authorizing the program and the most recent House reauthorization effort in 2008.

The poison control centers play an important role in reducing the number of injuries and deaths resulting from ingesting harmful substances and drug overdoses.

In California alone, the work of the poison control system is estimated to save \$70 million in health care costs and avert more than 60,000 emergency room visits each year.

I am pleased that we are able to work in a bipartisan manner to reauthorize this important program.

And I'd like to commend Congressman Engel and Congressman Terry for their work on this bill.

I also want to make a comment about a bill we are not considering today: the newborn screening legislation. We are delaying consideration so staff on both sides of the aisle can continue their work on this legislation.

But I am confident that we will reach agreement on this bill and hope we can bring it back before the Subcommittee and then Full Committee soon into the New Year, along with other measures that were the subject of last month's hearing.

**Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Markup of H.R. 1098, Traumatic Brain Injury
Reauthorization Act
Full Committee
December 11, 2013**

Mr. Chairman, I have been a strong supporter of the traumatic brain injury or T-B-I program. I co-sponsored the legislation that first authorized the program in the 1990s. And I supported the program's reauthorization five years ago.

TBI affects millions of Americans of all ages – with younger kids, teenagers, and the elderly most likely to sustain a head injury. TBI is a particularly concerning issue for our active duty military and returning veterans.

I represent the nation's largest Veterans Affairs health facility – the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. TBI is one of many, complex health problems affecting the veteran community served by this facility.

Which is why I am especially pleased that the bill -- as amended by the Health Subcommittee -- includes a requirement that HHS update us on their work with the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense to implement recommendations coordinating federal TBI efforts for current and former members of the military.

Increased coordination will help us better understand the burden of TBI amongst military personnel, ensure our veterans know where they can access needed services, and advance research and prevention efforts.

This legislation would not be possible without the support of Chairman Upton, Chairman Pitts, and Ranking Member Pallone. I would like to thank them for their efforts. I also want to acknowledge Congressman Pascrell's leadership on this bill, which has been essential to the process.